

Message Text

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LIMDIS

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SUBJECT: EA/PRCM WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. EXPORT CONTROL CASES (CONFIDENTIAL)

AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WE HAVE
AUTHORIZED ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO A CHINESE SEISMIC SHIP
INSPECTION AND PURCHASING GROUP. THE CHINESE HAVE
CONTRACTED FOR TWO USED SEISMIC VESSELS OWNED BY GRANT
GEOPHYSICAL INC. AND GEOSOURCE INC., AND THE DELEGATION
INTENDS TO INSPECT THEM IN HOUSTON BEFORE MAKING DOWN
PAYMENT. BOTH COMPANIES INFORMED THE CHINESE THAT THE
LICENSES WERE STILL UNDER REVIEW AND THERE WAS NO
GUARANTEE OF APPROVAL, BUT THE DELEGATION INSISTED ON
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COMING ANYWAY. COMMERCE'S PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT THE
EQUIPMENT, MINUS THE SEISMIC STREAMERS, IS LARGELY
UNOBJECTIONABLE. THE COMPANIES ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT
THIS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER MINOR MODIFICATIONS AND
BELIEVE THE CHINESE WILL AGREE. BOTH COMMERCE AND DOD
ARE ATTEMPTING TO EXPEDITE THE LICENSES SO THAT THE
PURCHASES CAN BE CONCLUDED WHILE THE CHINESE ARE HERE.

2. SENATOR EASTLAND BRIEFING (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

SENATOR EASTLAND AND FIVE OR SIX FRIENDS ARE PLANNING A PRIVATE TRIP TO CHINA THIS SUMMER AND MAY ATTEMPT TO TRAVEL FROM MOSCOW TO PEKING VIA THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILROAD. DON ANDERSON BRIEFED THE SENATOR ON GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING PRC VISAS AND PROMISED A FOLLOW-UP BRIEFING IF THEY DECIDE TO TRY THE TRANS-SIBERIAN TRIP. THE SENATOR DID NOT REQUEST OUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING PRC VISAS AND NONE WAS OFFERED.

3. VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN CHINA (UNCLASSIFIED)

THE EXODUS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE FROM VIETNAM HAS PROMPTED AN INCREASING NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES ABOUT HOW VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED TO CHINA CAN JOIN THEIR RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE WORKING WITH HA AND THE VISA OFFICE ON A COORDINATED RESPONSE.

4. PRC CONSULTATION TRAVEL TO THE US (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

IN AUGUST, A THREE-MEMBER TEAM FROM THE PRC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A 13 DAY
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INSPECTION VISIT TO PRCLO AND PRCMUN. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CHINESE HAVE REQUESTED VISAS FOR CONSULTATION TRAVEL TO THE US.

5. CHINA BUYS MORE WHEAT (UNCLASSIFIED)

PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT CHINA HAS BOUGHT 3 MILLION METRIC TONS OF CANADIAN WHEAT, RAISING TOTAL WHEAT PURCHASES BY CHINA THIS YEAR TO 4 MILLION TONS. DELIVERY IS TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER 1978--ABOUT THE TIME THAT US SHIPMENTS SHOULD BE ENDING--AND BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST 1979.

6. UPGRADING LANGUAGE TRAINING (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

FSI'S JOHN RATLIFF AND TAICHUNG LANGUAGE SCHOOL DIRECTOR CHICK SHEEHAN (HERE ON CONSULTATIONS) MET WITH HARVEY, DON AND MYSELF TODAY TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF CHANGES REQUIRED TO TURN OUT BETTER QUALIFIED LANGUAGE OFFICERS. FSI HERE AND IN TAICHUNG HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN SORTING OUT THE ISSUES AND HAS ALREADY TAKEN SOME USEFUL STEPS. GIVEN THE INITIALLY RATHER DEFENSIVE FSI REACTION

TO OUR INITIATIVE, THESE MANIFESTATIONS OF RESPONSIVENESS
ARE GRATIFYING.

7. MARQUIS CHILDS TO PEKING (UNCLASSIFIED)

JANE CHILDS TOLD ME TODAY THAT THEY HAVE OBTAINED VISAS
FOR A THREE-WEEK TRIP TO BEGIN JULY 15. THEY LAST WENT
IN 1973. THEY WILL BE TRAVELLING ALONE, AND UNDERSTAND
THEY WILL BE GOING TO PEKING, SHANGHAI, SOOCHOW, CHUNG-
KING, YANGTZE RIVER TRIP, AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE. THEY
APPLIED FOR THEIR VISAS IN THE SPRING, ASKING FOR AN
AUTUMN TRIP. THEY EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO FILE WHILE ON
THE TRIP. THEY'LL BE COMING IN TO SEE ME JULY 6.
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